

Applicant : Imad Mahawili, Ph.D
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REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

Applicant notes that the Examiner did not initial, date, and return the 1449 forms (two sheets) that Applicant submitted to the Patent Office on August 8, 2002. Applicant encloses herewith a copy of the 1449 forms (two sheets) filed on August 8, 2002, and respectfully requests that the Examiner initial, date, and return the initialed 1449 forms (two sheets) to the Applicant.

SPECIFICATION:

Applicant has amended the specification to correct grammatical errors found in the specification.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3-16, 18, 19, 21-33, 51-56, 58-60, and 62-77 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 17, 20, 34-50, 57, and 61 have been cancelled herein. Claims 3, 9-10, 16, 21, 62-65, 69, and 75-77 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten Claims 3, 9, 21, 62, 65, 69, and 75 in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 3, 9, 21, 62, 65, 69, and 75

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are now in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicant respectfully urges that their respective dependent claims, namely Claims 4-8, 10-16, 18, 19, 22-33, 51-56, 58, 63, 64, 66, 67, 70-74, 76, and 77, are also now allowable. Applicant respectfully notes that withdrawn Claims 11-15 and 51-60 are dependent upon allowable generic Claim 3, that withdrawn Claims 22-33 are dependent upon allowable generic Claim 22, and that withdrawn Claims 70-74 are dependent upon allowable generic Claim 69. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be reentered into the case and allowed along with the generic claims from which they depend.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 4, 17, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,219,786 to Noguchi.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 2, 17, and 61 without prejudice to pursue these claims and other similar claims in a continuation application. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner rejects Claims 5-8 and 67-68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi as applied to Claims 1-2, 4, 17, and 61 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,959,896 to Mahawili.

Claims 5-8 are dependent upon Claim 4, which has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 5-8 are now allowable. Claims 67-68 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 62. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Claims 67 and 68 are now also allowable.

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The Examiner rejects Claims 18-20, 22, and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi as applied to Claims 1-2, 4, 17, and 61 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,814,365 to Mahawili.

Claims 18-20 and 22 now depend from allowable Claim 21 and are, therefore, also allowable. Claims 34-37 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursue these and other similar claims in a continuation application.

Accordingly, in light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and a Notice of Allowance of all claims, namely Claims 3-16, 18, 19, 21-33, 51-56, 58-60, and 62-77.

Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506 or at collins@vglb.com.

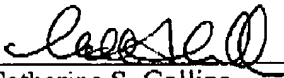
Respectfully submitted,

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

IMAD MAHAWILI, PHD

Date

May 14, 2004



Catherine S. Collins
Registration No. 37 599
2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E., Suite 207
P.O. Box 888695
Grand Rapids, MI 49588-8695
(616) 975-5500

CSC:lmse